

SAINT ANTHONY ORTHODOX CHURCH



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
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NATIVITY OF THE LORD

2017

FIRST ANTIPHON

- I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord. (R.:) Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!
- *Sought out in all the things that he has willed; confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abides unto the ages! (R.:)*
- *Glory... Now and ever... (Refrain)*

SECOND ANTIPHON

- *Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights in His Law. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth; glory and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness abides unto ages of ages* Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of the Virgin, as we chant to Thee, "Alleluia"!
- For the upright there arises a light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous. (R.:)
- *Glory... Now and ever... (Only begotten Son and Word of God ...)*

THIRD ANTIPHON

TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY (see below), preceded by the following Psalm verses:

- *The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of thy feet"*
- *The Lord shall send to you a scepter of power from Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy saints.*
- *Glory ... Now and ever ...*

LITTLE ENTRANCE

Priest: *From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Chanters: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of the Virgin, as we chant to Thee, "Alleluia"!

TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY (Tone 4): Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars from the star did learn to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know Thee, the East from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY (Tone 3): The Virgin brings forth today the Omnipotent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels give glory with shepherds, and the magi journey with the star. Since for our sakes was born as a new babe He Who is from eternity God.

- **Trisagion:** Instead of "Holy God ...", sing "As many as have been baptized into Christ ..."
- **The Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) for the Liturgy of Saint Basil** ("In thee, O full of grace ...")
- **Koinonikon (Communion hymn):** *The Lord hath sent redemption to his people, Alleluia!*
- **After Communion,** instead of "We have seen the true Light ...", sing the Troparion of Nativity

TODAY'S APOSTLE READING

Prokeimenon: *Let all the on earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee.
Shout with jubilation unto the Lord, all the earth!*

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Galatians

(Gal 4:4-7) **Brethren:** when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order to redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father." Therefore you are no longer a bond-servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
the Creator."

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING

The Reading is from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew

(Matthew 2:1-12) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in

the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

FROM THE NATIVITY HOMILY ASCRIBED TO ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

I behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd’s song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing; the Archangels blend their voice in harmony; the Cherubim hymn their joyful praise; the Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding God on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven: in place of the sun, it enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He-Who-Is, is born; He-Who-Is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man, yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.

What shall I say? And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of Days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infants bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, Paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels. Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever, Amen.

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Today doth Bethlehem receive Him Who is enthroned with the Father forever. Today the angels glorify, as worthy of God, the babe that is born, shouting: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace, and goodwill among men.

Beloved in Christ,

With great joy I greet you at the dawn of this bright and glorious feast of the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, making the cave a heaven and the manger a noble place! May He Who deigned to be born in the cave and rest in a manger take up His abode in us. Let us join our voices with the angelic choirs and glorify God, beseeching Him to bring peace, justice, and reconciliation to our troubled world.

Praying that these holy days of the feast will be joyous and grace-filled, and that God will grant you peace, health, and length of days, I remain,

Yours in the service of Christ,

+JOSEPH Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Garrett and Autumn, with their children, who were all received into the Church (at St Nicholas [OCA] in McKeesport)!

Saturday, 30 December: NO VESPERS

Sunday, 31 December: Matins, Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 1, 9:30: no service at St. Anthony's.

(there is Divine Liturgy at Holy Transfiguration Monastery, served by Fr. Long)

Saturday, January 6: Matins (9 AM) and Divine Liturgy (10 AM) for the Feast of Theophany
Vespers (6:30 PM)

Sunday, January 7: Matins (9 AM) and Divine Liturgy (10 AM).

Sat/Sun, January 13-14: all services at Sts Peter and Paul (Bishop Daniel presiding);
Following Divine Liturgy, Bishop Daniel will lead the blessing of Lake Arthur.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21: SAINT ANTHONY'S DAY! We will serve Matins and Divine Liturgy together with the priests and faithful of the other two Orthodox churches in Butler/Lyndora.

ORTHODOXOUTREACHUSA.ORG Check out the new website of our Cranberry Outreach, set up and managed by Martie. It is geared primarily towards inquirers in Butler and Mars/ Cranberry. It contains, among many other things, a calendar of services and activities at St. Anthony's and at the mission.